

January 2, 2018

**ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Reorganization Meeting**

Acting Chairman Douglas Smith called to order a Reorganization Meeting of the Erie County Council at 12:00 p.m. at the Erie County Council Chambers, 140 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 117, Erie, PA. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Loll read the following prayer/invocation:

“Let us pray. Almighty God, as we are here, at this moment, we beseech that Thou will make full and complete our dedication to the service of the people and our fellow citizens. Especially we pray that our concern shall be for all the people, who under the concept of our government, hold to differing beliefs, so that all may work for the good of our beloved county and for Thy glory. Heavenly Father, we bow our heads and thank You for Your love. Accept our thanks for the peace that yields this day and the shared faith that makes its continuance likely. Make us strong to do Your work, willing to heed and hear Your will, and write on our hearts these words: ‘Use power to help people’. For we are given power not to advance our own purposes, nor to make a great show in the world, nor a name, there is but one just use of power and it is to serve people. Help us to remember it Lord. Amen.”.

**Roll Call**

The County Clerk called the roll:

- Members Present:
- Mr. Anderson  
Mrs. Fatica  
Mr. Horton  
Mr. Leone  
Mrs. Loll  
Mr. Rastetter  
Dr. Foust
- Members Absent:
- None.
- Also Present:
- Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk  
Sue Ellen Pasquale, Manager of Accounting  
James Sparber, Director of Finance  
Joseph Maloney, CPA  
Thomas Talarico, Solicitor

**Hearing of The Public**      None.

**Nominations for  
Chairman**

Mr. Horton moved to nominate Dr. Foust as Chairman. This was seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Leone then moved to close nominations. This was seconded by Mrs. Fatica and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

The nomination of Dr. Foust as Chairman then carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Nominations for  
Vice Chairman**

Mrs. Loll moved to nominate Mr. Leone as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Mr. Horton.

Mr. Horton then moved to close nominations. This was seconded by Mrs. Fatica and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

The nomination of Mr. Leone as Vice Chairman then carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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**Council Member  
Comments**

Chairman Foust stated it is always an honor to be chosen by his colleagues as Council Chair and he is appreciative of the confidence they have in him to lead this body for the next year.

Chairman Foust has asked Mrs. Fatica and she has agreed to be Chair of the Finance Committee, and Mrs. Loll will serve as Vice Chair. Chairman Foust has asked Mr. Horton, and he has accepted, to be Chair of the Personnel Committee. He stated that he will name a Vice Chair of Personnel down the road.

There are a lot of potential changes where members may want to serve as liaison and he asked that Council members get the requests to Mrs. Breter or Mr. Smith in the next few weeks and by the end of January the list can be finalized.

Regarding the Retirement Board, Chairman Foust stated there would be no changes there and the three people serving are will to continue on that Board.

Chairman Foust wanted to thank Mr. Breneman and Mr. DiMattio on the record for their service on Council. They brought a lot of passion, a lot of wisdom, and certainly a strong point of view to the table and they will be sorely missed. He wished them the best in the future. He stated that as sad as he is to see them go, he is as excited about serving with new colleagues Mr. Anderson, who has been a longtime friend, and Mr. Rastetter. He wished them both the best of luck. He stated that they are joining a Council that has always conducted business in a cooperative spirit. Council has had differences and disagreements in the past, but has always done well to move on after the decision has been made to move on with business of Erie County. He encouraged the new members to ignore most unsolicited advice and seek out information on their own as they make up their own minds. He suggested this for two reasons – one is that they will be more confident in their own decision making, which will greatly benefit them, but more often than not they will reach a decision that will be most appreciated by the people of Erie County, even if they happen to disagree with them.

While Dr. Foust is confident that Erie County will successfully address the myriad of challenges that are facing the County in these proceeding years, Council can never be sure of its own success. As John Adams said years ago about America's own independence, "Even though we're not sure of that success, we can work to deserve it." Dr. Foust stated that as Council goes forward and addresses the different situations and the different challenges that come up, he asked that Council please work in the spirit, even if Council is unsuccessful, Council can deserve what is best for Erie County. Even if others may disagree with Council, always work in the community's interest and not political interest, and work to deserve the honor that the people have bestowed on each member. He hopes in the end this is the spirit that Council serves and he wished everyone the best of luck.

Mr. Leone stated that he has a letter requesting a Council Caucus on January 4, 2018, and a meeting on January 9, 2018. He commented that after talking with the County Executive, she indicated that she will send down all vetoes to all of the ordinances recently sent. Mr. Leone also has quite a few appointments to make.

Mr. Anderson congratulated Chairman Foust on his election as Chair. He looks forward to working with him. He also congratulated Mr. Leone to his election as Vice Chair and he looks forward to working with him as well. He commented that the leadership and the tremendous amount of experience on Council by both is something he looks forward to learning from. To his other colleagues on Council, he stated he looks forward to serving with them and move forward the betterment of the community. He stated he is fortunate to be representing the 4<sup>th</sup> County Council District and will use his judgment to do so.

Chairman Foust stated that upon Mr. Leone's request, he has no problem scheduling a Finance Meeting for January 4<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting then adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary

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